

PETER J. CLAASSEN.

APRIL 3, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCLELLAN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 2221.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2221) granting an increase of pension to Peter J. Claassen, late colonel One hundred and thirty-second New York Infantry Volunteers, having carefully examined and considered the facts and circumstances presented, respectfully report:

Peter J. Claassen served from July 17, 1861, to May 22, 1862, as captain Company I, Ninth New York State Militia, and as colonel One hundred and thirty-second New York Infantry Volunteers from September 11, 1862, to June 29, 1865, when mustered out and honorably discharged, his record being excellent in service.

He filed claims for pension January 10, 1894, both under the general law and under the act of June 27, 1890, and the claim under act of June 27, 1890 was allowed at \$12 per month from date of application. The claim under general law was rejected December 11, 1894, on the ground of no ratable disability shown in excess of that allowed in the claim under act of June 27, 1890, and therefore of no benefit to claimant. He appealed from this rejection of claim under general law, but the Secretary of the Interior affirmed the action of rejection.

The evidence filed shows clearly that applicant suffered with malaria at various times during his service, and with urinary trouble in June, 1864, which the regimental surgeon pronounced a result of malarial fever; that he suffered from an injury to left leg from the kick of a horse at Hollis Landing, Va., May 30, 1862. Lieutenant-Colonel Hitchcock and Dr. Rice, the assistant surgeon, both testify to existence of urinary and bladder trouble in service, and Dr. Bryant and Dr. McCourt (the latter a specialist on diseases of urinary organs), give it as their opinions that the urinary trouble was a result of malarial fevers in service, while the medical referee of the Pension Bureau says it is a result of "senile change," and in his rating of claim under general law refuses to accept it as of service origin, contrary to the proof made.

It is plain that whatever caused the urinary and bladder troubles they existed in and were of service origin, though doubtless increasing as old age advances.

Applicant is shown to be over 70 years of age, broken down in health, entirely destitute, and unable to earn his living or support himself on the pension of \$12 per month, and in view of his brilliant army record your committee earnestly recommend the passage of the bill.